



THOMAS G. NEWMAN,
EDITOR.

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EDITORIAL BUZZINGS.

R. F. Holtermann, Secretary of the International Bee-Society, who has for the last five years been in charge of the bee-keepers' supply business of E. L. Goold & Co., Brantford, Canada, and lately edited the *Canadian Honey Producer*, has left for Romney, Kent Co., Ont.

Mr. Holtermann, although only on salary, has, we believe, given first place to the interests of those with whom he has been employed. He will continue to edit the *Canadian Honey Producer* until the end of the present volume. Bee-keeping and store-keeping combined, will occupy his attention hereafter. He writes: "I am going to an excellent locality for clover and an abundance of basswood and excellent fall pasture; no bees at all are kept within three miles, and I believe even four."

The Prospect Brightens for a good crop of honey. As a sample of the many, we give these few lines from C. A. Bunch, of La Paz, Ind., dated June 27, 1889:

Look out for a big crop of clover honey this season. The bees in this neighborhood have been working between showers on red, Alsike and white clover equal to any season that I ever saw.

Mr. Bunch sends us a sample of his bees. They are very fine, large, and bright in color.

Many Good Advertisers invite our readers to send for their descriptive Circumstances, etc. It will pay to get these, and see what is for sale, by whom, at what prices, and what things are offered. Every one can learn something in this way. Please always tell advertisers where you saw their cards; they like to know, and we like to have them.

More Falsehoods.—The Chicago *Daily News* of June 27, 1889, contained an article on page 6, which, for misrepresentations and unmitigated untruths "beats the world!" The last paragraph reads thus:

The worst enemy of the honey-raiser is the producer of artificial and adulterated honey. It is easy to adulterate honey, but only recently have men become ingenious and skillful enough to make honey in the comb, both the honey and the comb being artificially produced. The spurious product looks almost exactly like that created by bees, and it is put up in the little square boxes, windowed sides, like those used in hives. It is possible to detect the imitation only by tasting it, by which test anybody who has a tooth for genuine honey can easily detect the fraud. The counterfeit is so skillfully executed, however, that it frequently deceives a novice. A New York man in a restaurant in this city the other night called for honey in the comb, and five boxes were purchased for him at as many different groceries before one of genuine honey was obtained. He then described the method of artificial honey-making, and in conclusion said that he was a drummer for a New York honey-house.

We defy the *Daily News* to bring proof of its foul charges, and we brand them as lies without the least shadow of truth to rest on!

There is no such thing in existence as comb made of paraffine, or similar substances, and filled with glucose, which the *Daily News* calls "artificial honey!"

There is no such "spurious product" which "looks almost like that created by bees, and is put up in the little square boxes with windowed sides, like those used in hives!"

There is no "counterfeit" comb honey "so skillfully executed that it frequently deceives a novice," or "any other man!"

The silly story, or, more properly, the wilful lie, which the *News* parades in proof of its "comb honey" story, is simply diabolical!

The idea of a New York man in a "restaurant" calling for honey in the comb, waiting there for the "buyer" to go out five different times and buy a "box" at five "different groceries," just to please a single guest! New York men do not wait a couple of hours at a meal, for different courses, and especially not for an article to be purchased for them five times in one course!

Restaurant keepers do not undertake to buy at retail for any single eater; they buy at wholesale, lay in a stock, and if anything is called for not in stock, they are so informed, and that ends it!

New York men, and especially "drummers," are too busy to spend so much time, even if restaurant keepers would go out and buy, at five different times, from five different grocers, a single box of honey to accommodate a notional crank! These "drummers" are after business—not such foolishness as that!

New York honey-houses do not have drummers out to sell honey—especially at this time of the year when the old crop is nearly exhausted, and the new crop is not yet harvested!

No "factory" for making the so-called "artificial honey" is in existence, and

hence it could not send out such a "drummer!"

No such "artificial honey" with combs "artificially produced" is in existence! If one such "paraffine comb filled with glucose and sealed up by machine" (as the newspapers so often put it) is produced—yes, even one is presented at this office—it can take a thousand dollars, which is offered for the proof of the existence of such an artificial humbug!

Now the *Daily News* should either produce one of those "artificial boxes of honey" that are so plentiful at the groceries that "five boxes were purchased" "before one of the genuine honey was obtained"—or else make an apology and retraction for publishing such villainous falsehoods!

Paris Green on Potatoes.—S. R. Norton, Lemont, Ills., on June 22, 1889, writes this inquiry:

Would there be any danger of poisoning my bees if I use Paris green or London purple on my potato vines, to destroy the bugs? The potatoes are in bloom.

At our request, Prof. Cook replies to this question, in these words: "There is no danger of using Paris green or London purple on potatoes. The bees do not gather nectar from potatoes, and so could not get the poison. Indeed there is no danger of spraying our orchards except when the trees are in full bloom. At that time spraying should never be done."

Comb Foundation is now in almost universal use. Those who object to it, do so principally on the ground of cost. Its use in the brood-chamber pays well in results; but in sections, for comb honey, is where its utility is more manifest. Of course none should there be used but thin, which is made expressly for the purpose. Its use greatly aids shipping—for breakages are less frequent than when only natural comb is allowed.

New Posters for the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, printed in two colors, have just been printed, and will be sent free to all who can use them. They are very handsome, and will "set off" an exhibit at Fairs. It will tell Bee-Keepers how to subscribe, for "Subscriptions Received Here" is quite prominent at the bottom.

We will also send sample copies of the BEE JOURNAL, for use at Fairs, if notified a week or ten days in advance where to send them.

Lindens were reported on page 403, to be stripped of buds and leaves in Minnesota. Now we have another report from that State. C. Theilmann thus writes on June 28:

Lindens here are loaded with good, sound buds, which will open in a few days. I have traveled about ten miles this morning through a timbered country, and nearly every linden tree is loaded with buds. White clover is in full bloom also, but we have too much cloudy weather.

GLEAMS OF NEWS.

The Paris Exposition.—The Paris correspondent of the *British Bee Journal* has this to say about the Bee and Honey Department :

I may say that only three countries are at all completely represented. These are the United States, who have a general collection grouped together from all the principal manufacturers there; France, with one fairly complete installment, but many of the goods in this are apparently of English manufacture; and Great Britain, represented solely by Mr. Thomas B. Blow, with a large and imposing collection of both appliance and honey and wax, also working bees.

All the collections of bee-keeping appliances are situated in the Agricultural Galleries, which stretch right away from the main entrance of the Esplanade des Invalides to the Camp de Mars. For the guidance of English visitors who may wish to see the various collections of bee-keeping appliances, I would advise that they should enter the Exhibition by the Invalides entrance, which is the one nearest to Paris, and is quite close to the Place de la Concorde. The Pont de la Concorde should be crossed, and the turn to the right taken (opposite is the Chamber of Deputies), and the handsome and imposing entrance is straight ahead.

The Agricultural Galleries commence quite close to this entrance, and are altogether about one mile in length, and apart from bee-keeping are well worth a visit. Mr. Blow's exhibit is quite close to the entrance of the first gallery, and we are quite sure that he will be glad to be of any service possible to any English bee-keepers who may call upon him.

John Y. Detwiler has certainly "raised a breeze" in Florida! He was the first editor of a paper called the *Breeze*, which is published at New Smyrna, and is now in its third year. In its issue for last week, we notice the following :

J. Y. Detwiler, on the peninsula, is engaged quite extensively in bee-culture, and has made the business quite remunerative. He has given the subject a great deal of study in all its branches, and has edited the bee-department of several agricultural periodicals. He was the first editor of the *Breeze*.

Plant-Louse.—H. W. Haag, Pettit, Ind., sends a "bug," and writes thus to Prof. Cook : "I enclose some kind of an insect pest, that is injuring wheat and oats in this vicinity. Will you please answer in the *AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL*, telling what it is?" Prof. Cook sends the following, which he has prepared concerning it :

THE GRAIN APHIS.—In Indiana it is called, very incorrectly, the "green midge." This plant-louse is very abundant, and often does serious damage to wheat, rye, barley, and oats. Like all the *aphides*, it sucks out the juice, and thus ruins the grain. Dry weather is favorable to the growth and development of all plant-lice, and, no doubt, the exceedingly dry spring—April and May—explains the great abundance of this grain *aphis* this season. It is probable that the abundant rains of June will lessen their numbers and injury. I hope that the rains are in time to prevent any serious mischief.

Although we know how to kill plant-lice, and can always do so by the use of kerosene and soap mixture, yet the very nature of the case prevents the use of this specific in case of this grain *aphis*. There is no way to apply the remedy in this case without doing more harm than good.

This grain *aphis* has often been observed, and has not infrequently done great harm. One comforting fact may be given: This enemy rarely confronts the farmer's success on two successive years.

The Chicago Tribune of Sunday, June 23, 1889, at the bottom of the fourth column, on page 16, contained an article with this heading: "The Busy Bee's Occupation Gone—Paraffine Honey-Comb Filled with Glucose Honey." It then avers that bee-keepers have been guilty of adulterating their honey, and then made a "great discovery," which it describes thus:

This was that glucose, or grape sugar, closely resembled honey in appearance, and was a very fair counterfeit as far as taste was concerned. Then there appeared in the market paraffine honey-comb filled with glucose honey, and the occupation of the bee was gone. The first attempt was simply an adulteration of honey with glucose, and the proportion of the latter was gradually increased until there was little or no honey.

The above, together with the whole article, copied from the *Philadelphia Record*, is an unmitigated falsehood! We call upon the *Tribune* to retract it, and thus show its desire, at least, to be just, and treat every honest pursuit honorably. Surely, this is an age of misrepresentation!

Encouraging Words are always welcome: when they come from a lady, they are doubly welcome; and when that lady is one held in universal esteem, its welcome is greatly enhanced thereby. Her Royal Highness, the Princess Christian, is honorary President of the Berkshire Bee-Keepers' Association in England, and addressed to that body, at its late session, the following very encouraging communication which we extract from the *Berkshire Bee-Keeper*, published at Reading, England:

I am glad to hear that the interest in bee-keeping is decidedly increasing throughout the country, and that with the cottager class a more humane method of taking the honey is superseding the old "rough and ready" system. There is a question which I do not think has yet been sufficiently answered, as to how far bee-keeping, except perhaps on a large scale, has been found to pay, and yet no doubt the hope that it will be a source of income, is a great inducement to keep bees. Apart, however, from the "profit-and-loss" view of the subject, associations of this kind do good in many indirect ways. A bee-keeper to be successful must study the habits of bees, and the interest of the subject will well repay him for the time and attention he gives to it.

Again, any scheme which brings persons of different classes together, who would not perhaps otherwise meet, must have a beneficial effect. These County Associations promote good fellowship, stimulate a healthy rivalry, and encourage interchange of ideas. They break down those accidental barriers between class and class which so often prevent one section of society from coming in contact with another, to their mutual advantage.

I have often remarked that sociability seems a special characteristic of bee-keepers; they have interests in common; there is a bond of sympathy between them. The experience and the scientific knowledge of the professional are placed at the disposal of the beginner, who knows that he can always get help and advice; and in his turn he is prepared in after years to assist others in the same way. All such intercourse is most desirable, and is in every way to be encouraged.

I am told that a London Guild has in contemplation the founding of an Agricultural College, and it has been suggested that something might be done in connection with such a scheme to forward the "honey industry." It would give a great impetus to bee-keeping throughout the country, were so important a society as the Mercers' Company to lend its powerful aid to the development of this subject....

The last two bad honey seasons have, I fear, had a very discouraging effect on bee-keepers, especially on those of the cottage class, and something must be done to revive the spirits of those to whom the last inclement season has brought nothing but disaster. I venture to express a hope that the changes that have lately been made in the rules of organization of this association may prove beneficial to the members. I trust that none will be discouraged by past failure. It may be true of bee-keeping as of other ventures, "That there is a tide in the affairs of men which, taken at the flow, leads on to fortune."

HELENA.

Cumberland Lodge, May, 1889.

Tiering Up, etc.—J. F. Gile, Basswood, Wis., on June 24, 1889, asks the following questions :

1. Is sweet clover desirable for hay?
2. Will it do to tier-up when comb honey in broad-frames is wanted?

3. I have a nucleus covering five Gallup frames, that is queenless, and to which I have given a frame of unsealed brood at two different times. The last time I examined them, I found three empty queen-cells, but no queen or eggs deposited. What is the cause of this?

1. No. 2. No. 3. It is sometimes difficult to account for the action of bees, not knowing all the circumstances. If they have laying-workers, that may account for it.

Poisoning Bees.—Prof. A. J. Cook, to whom we referred the matter of Legislation relative to the use of London purple when trees are in bloom, in Michigan, writes as follows to us, relative thereto :

You may be sure that I will attend to the matter of Legislation on the London purple question, at the first opportunity. It is a matter of vital importance, and I am glad you are moving energetically. I felt sure you would, as you are always ready to strike when our industry is assailed.

After the first one hundred days, our Legislature is not permitted by the Constitution to introduce new Bills. Thus it was too late to move in the matter with our present Legislature, when my attention was first called to the danger. I have never heard of any loss until this year.

I have again called attention to the matter in the *New York Tribune*. I will do so in other papers.

It is unfortunate that the Michigan Legislature could not have dealt with this matter at the session which closed last week, after a six-months' sitting. It passed bills to reduce railroad fare to two cents per mile, and to enact "local option."

Bees Not a Nuisance!—Last week we gave in brief the decision of the Supreme Court of Arkansas in the celebrated bee-lawsuit of the City of Arkadelphia *vs.* Z. A. Clark. We expected to be able to give the decision of the Judge in full, this week, but in this we are disappointed. We have made several applications for a copy of it, but so far have not succeeded in procuring it. We will give it to our readers as soon as it comes to hand.

At present it is enough to know that the National Bee-Keepers' Union has succeeded in making itself felt, and has obtained the first decision on the question of whether bee-keeping can be lawfully construed as a nuisance or not.

The highest Court in that State, on an appeal from the decision of the Circuit Court in favor of the bees, has again decided



This Rooster Crowth for the Bees, because the Bees cannot Crow for Themselves.

that the pursuit of bee-keeping is legitimate and honorable—that bees are not a nuisance!

We now warn all the "ignorant" and "prejudiced" to keep their hands off—and inform them that bee-keepers have rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States, that all are bound to respect.

The Decision of that Supreme Court is a document that will become of great use as a precedent. It will be a guide for the rulings of Judges—for the information of Juries—and for the regulation of those who may dare to interfere with a respectable pursuit by law or otherwise!

The National Bee-Keepers' Union, in this one instance alone, has been of great benefit to bee-culture, even though it has received but very poor encouragement and support from bee-keepers in general!

Its legitimate work, however, is but just begun, but if it is to continue in the good work, it must be supported both by the financial as well as moral influence of all the apiarists of America.

The General Manager has labored incessantly, without the hope of reward, except such as comes from a consciousness of having done his full duty. Reader, have you discharged your full duty in this matter?

To Stay at Home is Best.

Stay, stay at home, my heart, and rest ;
Home-keeping hearts are happiest,
For those that wander they know not where
Are full of trouble and full of care ;

To stay at home is best.

Weary and homesick and distressed,
They wander East, they wander West,
And are baffled and beaten and blown about
By the winds of the wilderness of doubt,

To stay at home is best.

Then stay at home, my heart, and rest ;
The bird is safest in its nest ;
O'er all that flutter their wings and fly,
A hawk is hovering in the sky ;

To stay at home is best.

—Longfellow.

Some Legends and Superstitions About Bees.

As originally printed by Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia, some 23 years ago, the *Bee-Keepers' Magazine* gives some curious "Legends and Superstitions Beliefs and Ominous Signs" connected with bees, as follows :

I. "A certain simple woman having some stals of bees which yielded not unto her hir desired profit, but consume and die of the murraine ; made her mone to another woman more simple than hir self ; who gave counsel her to get a consecrated host or round Godamighty and put it among them. According to whose advice she went to the priest to receive the host ; which, when she had done, she kept it in her mouth, and being come home againe she took it out and put it into one of the hives. Whereupon the murraine ceased, and the honey abounded. The woman therefore lifting up the hive in the due time to take out the honie, sawe there (most strange to be seene) a chapel built by the bees with an altar in it, with the wals adorned with marvelous skill of architecture with steple with bels. And the host being laid upon the altar, the bees making a sweet noise flew round about it."

II. "A certain peasant of Auvergne, a province in France, perceiving that his bees were likely to die, to prevent this misfortune, was advised, after he had received the communion, to reserve the Host and blow it into one of the hives. As he tried to do it, the Host fell to the ground. Behold now a wonder ! On a sudden all the bees came forth out of the hives, and ranging themselves in good order, lifted the Host from the ground, and carrying it upon their wings, placed it among the combs. After this, the man went out about his business, and at his return found out that the advice had succeeded ill, for all his bees were dead."

From Butler's "Lives of the Saints" we have the following :

III. "The birth of St. Ambrose happened about the year 340 B. C., and whilst the child slept in one of the courts of his father's palace, a swarm of bees flew about his cradle, and some of them even crept in and out of his mouth, which was open, and at last mounted into the air so high that they quite vanished out of sight. This," concludes the Reverend Alban, "was esteemed a presage of greatness and eloquence."

In East Norfolk, England, if bees swarm on rotten wood it is considered portentous of a death in the family.

IV. In Western Pennsylvania it is believed that bees will invariably sting red-headed persons as soon as they approach the hives.

V. A North German custom and superstition is, that if the master of the house dies, a person must go to the bee-hive, knock and repeat these words : "The master is dead, the master is dead," else the bees will fly away. This superstition also prevails in England, Lithuania, and in France.

VI. On swarming is found the following observation in Tusser Redivivus 1734, page 62 : "The tinkling after them with a swarming-pan, frying-pan and kettle, is of good use to let the neighbors know you have a swarm in the air, which you claim wherever it alights ; but I believe that it is of very little purpose to the reclaiming of the bees, which are thought to delight in no noise but their own."

To cure stings :

VII. "Moreover, as many as have about the bill of a woodpeck (wood-pecker) when they come to take honey out of the hive, shall not be stung by bees."

VIII. Longfellow, in his song of Hiawatha, in describing the advent of the European to the New World, makes his Indian Warrior say of the Bees and the White Clover :

Wheresoe'er they move, before them,
Swarms the stinging fly, the Alimo,
Swarms the Bee, the honey-maker.

Wheresoe'er they tread, beneath them
Springs a flower unknown among us,
Springs the White Man's Foot in Blossom.

Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly

for July has a picturesque and well-illustrated article, entitled, "Into Oklahoma with the Boomers," giving much interesting information about the settlement of the Promised Land, as well as of the adjoining Cherokee Strip. "The Samoa Cyclone" vividly depicts the great naval calamity of last March, which has been compared to the historic destruction of the Spanish Armada. The biographical and natural history papers, sketches of travel, short stories, poems, etc., are numerous and excellent.

QUERIES AND REPLIES.

Moving Bees Nearer to the Basswood Bloom.

Written for the American Bee Journal

Query 640.—What difference would it make in the amount of honey gathered in moving bees $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile in the direction of basswood and bottom-land, instead of remaining from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 miles away, where they now are?—Illinois.

I should expect, perhaps, one-third more.—WILL M. BARNUM.

I have no facts to found a judgment upon.—R. L. TAYLOR.

I could only guess; possibly 20 per cent. increase.—C. C. MILLER.

Not enough to pay for the moving, as you state it.—G. M. DOOLITTLE.

I have never tried it, but I believe that it will often pay handsomely for the trouble.—EUGENE SECOR.

Perhaps one-third in the amount of surplus from basswood.—G. L. TINKER.

I could only guess, and guesses are not very satisfactory. Only guesses can be given to such questions.—A. J. COOK.

I do not think that it would pay for the trouble.—C. H. DIBBERN.

I have no experience along this line. I should not expect much difference.—J. M. SHUCK.

Not difference enough to pay for the trouble of moving, I should say.—JAMES HEDDON.

I do not think that it would make any great difference in so short a distance.—J. P. H. BROWN.

I would prefer to let them remain where they are, than to move them only $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile.—P. L. VIALLON.

At a rough guess, I would say from one-half to twice as much more.—J. M. HAMBAUGH.

I do not think that any appreciable difference would be found; certainly not enough to pay for moving.—J. E. POND.

It might make considerable difference. A neighbor living $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from me had his hives filled up with basswood honey one year, when I had none at all.—MAHALA B. CHADDOCK.

It is difficult to say what the difference would be. We have had the best results (other things being equal) where the flight of our bees has not been over one mile, or thereabouts.—MRS. L. HARRISON.

It would make some difference, but how much, could not be determined without many and careful experiments; but $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile could not make much difference.—M. MAHIN.

I do not know what the difference would be, but I should not expect much yield from flowers three miles away. One season I got an average of 70 pounds (from 75 colonies) of extracted sweet clover honey, from a locality about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles away from the clover.—A. B. MASON.

I cannot say what the difference would be in the case you mention, but I know by experience that your bees would do much better work if they were located in the midst of the harvest field. There is more importance attached here than many good beekeepers seem to be aware of.—G. W. DEMAREE.

It would probably make some difference, but hardly enough to pay for the trouble of moving them the distance mentioned.—THE EDITOR.

Supers with a Bee-Space at the Bottom.

Written for the American Bee Journal

Query 641.—I use the open one-piece sections with the wood strips to rest the sections on; these fit close at the ends, which is not the case if I use the T-tins. Old bee-keepers tell me that a super is not as good with a bee-space at the bottom, as at the top. Is it not as good? If not, why not?—Bee-Man.

Yes, it is as good.—MRS. L. HARRISON.

I prefer the space at the bottom.—WILL M. BARNUM.

The difference lies in the ease of manipulation.—G. M. DOOLITTLE.

I find no difference as regards the space—but I prefer it at the bottom.—J. P. H. BROWN.

I use supers with a bee-space at the bottom. I have had no experience otherwise.—J. M. HAMBAUGH.

It is just as good, but it costs more to make it.—G. L. TINKER.

I do not use separators, and have had no experience with the T super.—MAHALA B. CHADDOCK.

I have had no experience with a bee-space at the top of either the super or the hive.—A. B. MASON.

I see no difference, if hives, honey-boards, etc., are made to correspond. I do not think that the bees care.—A. J. COOK.

I prefer a bee-space both at the top and at the bottom. There are many reasons for such, but it would require more space than is allowed here, to explain fully.—P. L. VIALLON.

One reason is, that if a section projects above the edge of the super, as it sometimes will if a bee-space is at the bottom, another super will not fit on top.—C. C. MILLER.

My supers have a "bee-space" in both the bottom and the top, and it

seems, to me at least, that it is forever settled that I would not have them any other way.—J. M. SHUCK.

I do not see that there can be any difference to the bees, where the space is; the only questions to consider are economy, availability and practicability. Possibly I do not understand the question, it being rather blind; but I answer it as I do understand it.—J. E. POND.

Because it is very important to have a bee-space at the top of the hive, and the case, so that the cover can be quickly put on without crushing bees. Also, if there were no bee-space between the sections and cover, the sections would be badly glued.—R. L. TAYLOR.

I understand that your sections are side-opening, and I consider such sections no advantage in any way, and do not look so well. There is no difference whether the bee-space is in the top or bottom of the case, so that they are uniform.—C. H. DIBBERN.

I want a bee-space at both the top and the bottom. The one at the bottom should be in the top of the hive, or in the honey-board; and the one at the top should be in the top of the super. Most hives and fixtures are made that way; if not, they should be. The space here forbids giving reasons.—EUGENE SECOR.

All well-made standard hives—I mean the brood-chamber—are made so as to have the tops of the frames a bee-space below the upper rim of the hive; or, as I prefer them and make them, with half a bee-space at the top and bottom, and this necessitates making the cases so as to adjust the sections either flush with the bottom, or with the divided bee-space. It is simply a matter of taste, or a matter of mechanical convenience. I have had cases in all the "ways" in use, and as to the amount of honey stored, I have seen no difference.—G. W. DEMAREE.

No, your super is not a good one. Wood strips are not at all proper for sections to rest on. If you have a bee-space in the bottom of the super, and one in the top of the hive, you bring two bee-spaces together, and that is simply disastrous. If there is no bee-space in the top of the hive, the wooden rest would be glued to the top of the frames. It is always the best and only proper place for a bee-space, at the top of all brood-cases and surplus-cases. Proper manipulation with the bottom-boards and covers makes this true. There is not space enough to explain it all here.—JAMES HEDDON.

I prefer wood strips for the ends of the sections to rest on. I have strips the width of the sections nailed on the bottoms of the section-cases; these

have openings corresponding with the openings between the sections. Strips the thickness of a bee-space are laid across these slats for the ends of the sections to rest on; but the openings between the slats and between the sections, while corresponding in size and shape, are not one over the other, but the joints are broken. There is thus a double bee-space, *a la Heddon*. The plan works well every way.—M. MAHIN.

Bee-spaces should be at the top to prevent the crushing of bees, in all hives, cases, supers, etc., then there is a bee-space between each. —THE EDITOR.

CORRESPONDENCE.

HIVES.

The "Coming" Hive—Prevention of Swarming.

Written for the American Bee Journal
BY GEO. F. ROBBINS.

Mr. J. E. Pond, on page 377, refers to Mr. Teft's article on page 346, on the "Coming Hive," and proceeds to argue that the "coming hive" "is here." This hive he claims to be the "ordinary Langstroth," made 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, to take a frame holding—in length I suppose—four 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ sections.

Suppose that we agree that the hive is here, in the shape of the "ordinary Langstroth"—that hive *does not* contain ten frames. The ten-frame hive men are in the minority in this day of apicultural progress. It has, it seems to me, been demonstrated quite often enough, that eight Langstroth frames are sufficient to accommodate any queen. Seven frames will usually, if not always, be all that a queen can fill in 21 days. We add one extra frame for pollen and honey, which, with the upper corners of the other seven frames, is ample. To give more room than that, is to have honey stored below, that should go above.

Mr. Pond has, himself, somewhere in the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, argued that to get bees into sections, the brood-frames should be close enough together to keep the combs only about $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch in thickness, without cappings, so that they would be filled with brood quite up to the top-bars. I think that I am safe in saying that bees will never fill the combs of a ten-frame hive up to the top-bar. If there is room to spread the brood horizontally, they will fill the upper part of the frame with honey.

I have used eight and ten frame hives, side by side in my apiary for five years, and I would exchange all I have of the latter kind for the former, and pay 25 per cent. "to boot," quickly. They can be contracted and expanded at will, that is true; I am doing that all the time, and I know how it goes. I seldom can use a brood-chamber of a ten-frame hive to its full capacity. I generally have two dummies below; then when I put on surplus arrangements I must have division-boards, or boards to cover a part of the surface of the lower story, as the case may be.

I have had in the two stories, six dummies, with a lot of moth-cocoons wedged in the crevices, and a mouse-nest in the bargain. Dummies, honey-boards, supers, covers, chaff-cushions, dummies—over and over, again and again. I am sick and tired of so much lumber. Dummies! Why I have stacks of them, poking them here, tossing them yonder, "toting" them in and "toting" them out. With the hive I have, I could not do without them, perhaps never altogether; but with a hive of the right size—11 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide—the need of them would be reduced more than one-half.

Mr. Pond highly commends this thought of Mr. Teft, viz: "Keep the bees in one strong colony until after the honey harvest," etc. So do I! It is like many another good thing that we cannot have. I read Mr. Teft's article about three times. It is a wonderful article. The remark quoted is a sample of much more contained therein. His ideal is a wonderful ideal indeed. I cannot even dream of such an one. Allow me to speak a parable:

A youth dreams: "If I could have all the money I want, a fine, beautiful estate, the prettiest, smartest, sweetest girl in the world for a wife, no pains, no sickness, no cares, no discontents, no work—everything that heart can wish, and nothing to do but enjoy my lovely wife, and eat ice-cream and cake, and never have dyspepsia—oh, how happy I would be." So would I! Mr. Teft so mixes the actual points of his hive and system with the ideal, that we cannot quite separate the one class from the other; but that he does not possess all his ideal, is pretty evident. If he or any other man can ever "keep the bees in one strong colony until after the honey harvest," and yet "keep the brood-frames full of brood, and no honey in them during the harvest," (especially with Mr. Pond's ten-frame hive) as he says in the same sentence; have reversible frames, brood-chamber, cover, dummies, chaff-hive, and no chaff-hive, and yet have it simple; have a double bottom with tarred paper between the boards—and

everything else that he mentions and wants, and yet have it cheap—I hope he will tell me. All these are veritable points of his ideal hive.

"High as the heavens" his "name I'll shout." If he'll give me all the good, and leave the bad out.

Seriously, does not every bee-keeper know that to keep honey out of the brood-chamber, *it must be crowded out*? It cannot be done altogether even by contraction, although that will go a long way toward it. If the lower story is large, much of it will be filled with honey and sealed. In any case, when honey is flowing in, an old bee comes in laden with honey, spies a cell from which a newly-hatched bee has lately emerged, disgorges its load, and returns in haste to the cups of nectar it has left behind. To be sure, this may be carried up by the younger bees, but the process keeps cells all through the hive pre-occupied a great deal of the time. That is bee-nature, and no hive or system can change it.

Moreover, just at this juncture—the early part of heavy honey-flow—the hive is fullest of bees, and bees throng the brood-chamber in spite of supers above. Indeed, to get bees above, they have to be crowded—pushed—fairly propelled, like water in a fountain-pump. Think of that, my bee-keeper friends! Consider that well.

Talk, plan, work as we will, the lower story will become crowded, and swarming is the result. The man who works chiefly for extracted honey, may so manipulate as to keep the bees in one strong colony until the harvest is over; but he who produces principally comb honey, never can—unless, indeed, the dreamy future should have such a corresponding reality as a non-swarming bee.

Mechanicsburg, Ills.

MINNESOTA.

A Lady's Experience Among the Bees.

Written for the American Bee Journal
BY MISS IDA HOUSE.

I have been a silent reader of the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL for a number of years, but I have seen very little from bee-keepers of this State, and I often wonder why they stand back, and let the bee-keepers from other States do all the talking. So now I am going to set them an example, by telling them what our bees are doing.

I have helped my brother-in-law, Wm. Lossing, care for his bees for nearly six years. He has often asked me to write something for publication, and as I have just finished reading the

BEE JOURNAL, and found no letters from this State, I have concluded to write; and if it is found worthy of publication, I will write again.

My brother-in-law, on page 297, told of his removal from the southern part of the State, to Howard Lake, Minn.; since then we have sold nearly 60 colonies, which leaves us 135, 90 of which are pure Italians. We are equalizing them now, that is, taking frames of sealed brood from the strong ones, and giving to the weak ones. This, I think, will make them all ready for basswood, which will bloom in about three weeks.

Since white clover began to bloom, the bees have stored honey in supers and sections, and if the weather continues pleasant, we will have to begin extracting soon. White clover is very abundant here, and we never had a better prospect for basswood honey than we have had this year.

We are talking of starting a beekeepers' convention here. I am always glad to read letters from my sister bee-keepers, and I wish there were more of them. I think that bee-keeping is one of the most pleasant occupations that a lady can engage in.

I hope that the golden-rod will be adopted as our "National Flower," as it has always been my favorite.

Howard Lake, Minn., June 22, 1889.

HINTS.

Honey, Extractors, Buying Bees, and Humbugs.

Written for the Massachusetts Plowman
BY GEO. A. STOCKWELL.

There is honey in the market labeled "Honey thrown from the comb by machinery." Every word after "Honey" is superfluous. The honey must be thrown from the comb because it is not found in anything else, and it must be thrown by machinery because there is no other way to throw it. The label on all honey should read, "Honey," simply, not "Pure Honey," nor "Strictly Pure Honey;" if it be honey, it is pure honey, otherwise it is not honey.

Extractors.

Speaking of extracted honey leads to extractors. It is one of the mysteries of the bee-world why a Western manufacturer makes ten or a dozen extractors, varying in size, when one would answer the purpose. The result of placing so many extractors in the market is to confuse the buyer. One man ordering three times by number has not yet been able to get the extractor he wants. The attempt has

been made by the manufacturer, apparently, to produce an extractor for every size of frame. Why would not one extractor, the largest, be enough? It would admit all the small frames. This much making of extractors recalls the farmer who cut two holes in his barn—a large one for the old cat, and a small one for the kitten.

Buying Bees.

The best way to begin bee-keeping is to begin by practice and not by theory. You may learn from books, but you must get knowledge by actual contact with the bees. To begin, there must be bees, and how shall bees be bought? A dealer in bees said, "I will sell a colony of bees for three dollars, or a colony for twelve dollars."

In many cases the novice will decide in favor of the three-dollar colony. What is the difference in these colonies? Let us open the twelve-dollar colony. As soon as the covering is removed, bees, bees by the thousand come pouring out. Really the kettle boils over, and so many bees come out that you wonder how they will all get back. And they are demonstrative, too. They are plucky and determined, for they know that they are strong, and they as much as say, "Look out! We are fifty thousand strong, and will not be trifled with."

Now we open the three-dollar hive, A few bold ones come slowly to the top, but the most of them hug the combs, and huddle closer together for they are weak and know it. There is only a small cluster in the centre. As far as immediate results go, the colony is worthless. They have a queen, but there are so few bees that they make no progress in early spring. They will no more than build themselves up in one season. A student might use them in preparing for the next season, but it were better to study a live, kicking, rebellious colony. In any case it were better to buy the twelve-dollar colony.

Lizzie's Periodic Humbug.

The tricks of a New England bee-keeper have been exposed repeatedly in bee-papers and agricultural papers, but the advertisements of this bee-keeper still appear to the beguilement of the unwary, and to their ultimate confusion and discouragement.

The plan of this bee-keeper is to feed an inferior syrup to the bees, and then sell the product as honey. This is fraudulent, and whoever practices it, practices dishonesty. By this plan the bees gather no honey.

Does molasses, sugar or corn-syrup become honey by the bees' manipulation? No. They may be changed slightly, but cannot be honey. A bee-keeper in a New England State pro-

duced this kind of "honey" for years, feeding barrels of sugar, or sugar and water, or glucose. The fact was admitted by the bee-keeper himself. Daily the feeders were filled, and the bees kept at home, at work in their own domicile.

This bee-keeper produced in one year 6,000 pounds of honey, or what was called honey. As he kept a large co-operation store, he could sell, or "trade" this sugar and water. That happened several years ago, and it is said that a large quantity of this product is now packed in grocery cellars, a dead commodity. Some talk was made about it, the people found it out, and would not buy. And yet the appearance of this product of feeding was more attractive to the casual buyer than honey.

The bee-keeper referred to in the beginning attempts to popularize apiculture on the basis of feeding a syrup costing two or three cents a pound, and selling as honey at 25 cents a pound—attempts to lead bee-keepers into cheating the people. But the people are not long deceived. They soon learn the difference between honey, and sugar and water.

Providence, R. I.

PAINTED BEES

Used When Hunting Bee-Trees —Working on Clovers.

Written for the American Bee Journal
BY JAS. F. WOOD.

On page 371 of the BEE JOURNAL appears an editorial, headed "A Painted Bee." As I read it, I was reminded of the days when a barefoot boy, I hunted bees in trees all around the neighboring towns, and used vermillion paint to mark the bees, and then they were "timed," to see how long they were gone to the tree. Now this paint was just touched on a bee's back, and it remained there a bright red, as long as the bee lived.

I remember of once marking three bees, and in two weeks, when the tree was cut, and I hived the bees, I saw two of these painted bees. The paint was used in a dry powder, as fine or finer than flour, so you see the bee could fly just as well after being painted.

It might be of interest to some, to know that more depends upon the condition of the atmosphere, as to how long it takes a bee to go and return a certain distance, than the actual distance. For instance, I have known a bee to go 1½ miles and return, in eight minutes, in a warm day, when the wind did not blow, and in a damp,

windy day it took the same bee fifteen minutes to return.

Red and Alsike Clovers.

There is plenty of clover bloom here this season, but my 40 full colonies have not a pound of honey to the hive. It is so wet and rainy that bees get very little time to work. I have about one-third of an acre of Alsike clover, and I notice that this is visited by the bees much more than is the white clover. Some seasons my Italian bees work on red clover, but this season it is not visited by them. I once saw a field of red clover covered with Italians, and all underneath was a perfect mat of red clover, and this was covered with black bees, and hardly any Italians; while the red clover was not visited by a single black bee. The conclusion that I came to was, that the Italians could reach a little deeper for honey than the blacks, and that the red clover sometimes secretes more honey than others, and then the bees can reach it. Perhaps the petals are shorter in some seasons than others, and this may account, in part, for Italians working on red clover in some seasons, and not visiting it in other seasons.

North Prescott, Mass.

IMPARTIALITY.

Large vs. Small Brood-Chambers Again Considered.

Written for the American Bee Journal
BY W. Z. HUTCHINSON.

The old question of "Large vs. Small Hives" seems to be fading in the distance, while that of "impartiality"—has the *Review* editor been impartial?—is bobbing up serenely.

It is an easy matter to go through a book or a magazine, and by making selections give a wrong impression. Mr. Dadant fails to say that the *Review* has contained a few articles favoring large hives. In his revision of "The Honey Bee," he quotes from French authors in favor of large hives. Why not have given a few quotations in favor of small hives? Instead of so doing, he says:

We take this opportunity of again energetically asserting that our preference for large hives is based on successful practice of more than twenty years, with several hundred colonies in different sized hives, while our opponents could bring forward nothing but their preconceived ideas.

My ideas in regard to the size of hives are not wholly theoretical. I have kept bees for twelve years, and used hives ranging in size from a two-frame American to one holding 33 American frames. Mr. Heddon has

used many different sizes of hives; among others he had 30 "long idea" hives, that held 30 frames each, and he used them two years before throwing them away. Mr. Doolittle is well-nigh universally looked up to as a leader, and always "gets there" in the production of honey, and he has for years been pleading for a small brood-chamber.

Adam Grimm has been quoted as "the man who made a fortune out of bees," until a mere mention of the matter leaves a "chestnutty" flavor upon the palate. He used an 8-frame Langstroth hive.

But why multiply examples? And yet, in the face of all this, my opponent asserts that those who argue in favor of small hives can bring forward "nothing but their preconceived ideas."

Even if large hives were my "nightmare," as Mr. Dadant asserts, I fail to see what bearing my preference for the Heddon hive has upon the subject; because, as explained in my last article in the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, the Heddon hive is *endlessly large*. No one can be rightfully accused of mercenary motives in advocating either a large or a small hive, as any one is perfectly free to make any size of hive.

Mr. Dadant asks "why I did not quote Mr. Jones, who, after buying the patent (to the Heddon hive) for Canada, abandoned it?" One reason is, that nothing of the kind has appeared for me to quote; and I am at a loss to know why my opponent should ask such a question.

In his first article, Mr. Dadant asserts that a large colony requires no more labor than a small one, and I asked him if he could extract the honey from a large colony as soon as from a small one. This he evades by telling with how few days' work he and Mr. Stachelhausen have produced large crops of honey—all of which no one doubts; but the question is: Can you extract the honey from a large hive as soon as from a small one?

Mr. Dadant says that I have condemned oil-cloths, as I have large hives, without testing them. Large hives I have used, quilts I have not, to any great extent, and I said so; that seeing other people use them had satisfied me; and from this, and from correspondence, and from reasoning upon the subject, I honestly believed that the quilts would yet be discarded, and said so, and see nothing in such actions that calls for condemnation. In hives with raised covers or "caps," I presume that quilts are a necessity, but this style of hive is being superseded, and with it will go the quilts.

All through Mr. Dadant's article runs a thread of opposition to my

"love for the Heddon hive." That the Heddon hive is my preference, I do not dispute. I used and advocated it before I began the publication of the *Review*; and when I became an editor, the question arose: "Shall I now become a 'bump on a log,' or shall I have ideas?" I decided to have ideas, and to express them. If I preferred the Heddon hive, I should say so, giving my reasons; if I thought that the Bingham smoker and honey-knife were superior, there would be no hesitancy in allowing that fact to become known; the same would be true in regard to the Given foundation, four-piece poplar sections, etc., clear down through the category. I would always hold myself in readiness to give reasons for my preferences, or acknowledge my errors; at the same time allowing others the privileges claimed for myself; and when I cannot run the *Review* upon this plan, I shall simply write its obituary, and turn my energies once more to the production of honey.

It is true that I have declined many articles (what editor has not?), some of them from the best writers, and I must continue to do so, unpleasant though it be; but I have never been actuated by motives of partiality, and have never declined one simply because it "advocated large hives."

Flint, Mich.

NEBRASKA.

The Season and Bee-Keeping in Nebraska.

Written for the American Bee Journal
BY CHESTER A. MOTT.

Bees have been a little backward here this spring, on account of cool nights, which we are apt to have through May and the forepart of June. The bees are getting out in the morning now—I do not know how early, but I believe that they go to work before they get their breakfast, or else they get it pretty early, for they are at work before I am out of bed, and all good bee-keepers get out in the morning—if they do not, I think that they should.

Nebraska has not been a very good State for a large crop of honey in the past, although what honey there is, is very nice; but I believe that in the near future, it will be a very good State for honey. White clover is spreading fast, and it grows well; the yards and roadsides, and some of the fields will soon be white with clover; also heart's-ease, smart-weed and milkweed are plentiful. The prospects are good for a big crop.

Bees are swarming in full blast, and the increase will be good. There are about 400 or 500 colonies in this (Lancaster) county.

There are a few box-hives in the county yet, but most of their owner's become tired of them, when they see their neighbors getting more of increase of bees, better yields of honey, and the honey in finer shape, and they bid farewell to the old box, and present their bees with a handy house.

I would like to have this question answered: Is it a good plan to put old black comb into a hive for the bees to breed in?

Emerald, Nebr., June 18, 1889.

[The color amounts to nothing, and unless the cells are much smaller by reason of repeated cocoons being left therein, they are just as good, practically, though we should prefer to renew them when convenient.—ED.]

WATER IN HONEY.

EVAPORATING WATER FROM HONEY IN THE CELLS.

*Written for the American Bee Journal
BY HENRY PATTERSON.*

Query 636, on page 374, brings out a chorus of "yes." Now before I make my decision, I wish to draw a shadow of the other side. We know well that water will evaporate from honey if kept warm in a dry atmosphere, which can be said of most liquids; and as Mr. Heddon says, it "may absorb water" in damp air; but does this answer the Query? The direct point is, does the water escape from the honey in the individual cell, before sealing?

The thought of wax-secreting creeps in here, which is an unsolved question, as to the direct cause for it. Now if Mrs. Harrison will promise to hold her criticism, I will drop in a thought on a new theory (at least it is new with me).

First, do bees build comb faster from thin honey, than from ripened honey? We notice that bees build thicker comb at times, caused from an over supply of wax, which is readily seen by their bridging and daubing everything inside of the hive. Is this caused from an over estimate on the part of the bees—hardly, I think.

Again, we notice that the first honey that comes in, is always placed low down in the combs; if it is to be evaporated by generated heat, why has not Nature placed it above? Now, will some one say, for convenience for dishing out to the young bee? Prof.

Cook tells us on page 375 of the last issue, that it must be digested before the young can receive it.

If we look at the process of securing gum from trees, we find that it is done by breaking cells, and allowing the sap to flow to the surface, allowing the air to take up the water, and leaving the crude gum. This we can see on our peach and cherry trees, caused by insects. Now is it not possible that the secretion of wax is similar? When bees gather nectar, is it not possible for the evaporation to be done by the bees filling their honey-sacs, and clustering so that perspiration will begin, and the heat that the bees generate is for evaporating the water from the wax on the bee, and not for the honey in the cells?

Has any one ever seen bees gather nectar, but what in a very few days they were secreting wax? This will occur in a hive full of comb, as bees have no use for wax only for capping; and in this case, if I am correct, you will find the frames and bottom-board glazed with a substance similar to wax, which, I think, is wax unprepared for comb-building, which is removed with the water as fast as it comes to the surface; and, also, is this not the glue that bees leave on glass, when confined in a room?

If this theory seems plausible, will some one, who is situated so that he can experiment, test it by feeding well-ripened honey, with the bees excluded from water? for if wax is caused by perspiration, force of nature would cause the bees to use water in the absence of it in the ripened honey.

Humboldt, Nebr.

SWARMING.

BEES SELECTING A HOME BEFORE SWARMING, ETC.

*Written for the American Bee Journal
BY FRANK COVERDALE.*

"Do bees select their home before swarming?" is a question that is of at least some importance to the whole bee-keeping fraternity. The loss of a great many swarms is vested here. I do not know whether all swarms send out spies or not, but even inasmuch as one swarm does, we will take it for granted that all that swarm under a normal condition will do the same, though, in my opinion, they do not all succeed before swarming.

For five successive years I placed in a certain oak-tree, a box or nail-keg, and every year except one there came a swarm into these kegs and boxes. As I was plowing corn or making hay each season near this tree, I could see quite easily just about what was going

on during nearly all the swarming season. At first I would see perhaps one bee, after that the number would increase, and one not posted would be very apt to think that there was a swarm in the keg. They would usually protect and clean this keg from one to three days before they would take full possession; at other times they would come in great numbers, and in due season disappear, in which case they had been captured, or found more suitable quarters.

Place a keg in each of two trees 40 rods apart, and the same swarm will hunt through both of them, and make their choice. I do not think that there were any chemical changes taking place in these kegs, as Mr. Demaree mentions on page 456 of the BEE JOURNAL for 1888. Nature does not intend to send the busy bee wandering from place to place, just happening to come across a hollow tree or log. Let any who doubt this, do as I have done, and they will be sooner or later convinced.

Swarms that have chosen a new home close by, are very apt, when swarming, to rise high up in the air, and go quickly, never stopping to cluster, as they have a string or trail of bees all the way from the hive, or swarm, to the new home—the less the distance, the more bees on the trail, or the thicker they fly; thus the further away, the better are the chances for them to cluster, for these bees flying back and forth have quite an influence on the swarm. It was such cases as these that so strangely induced me to adopt the method of clipping all of my queens' wings; for there is no one thing pertaining to bee-keeping that puts me more out of patience than to have a portion of my swarms leave me; for in so doing, there goes the profit.

ALSIKE CLOVER IN BLOOM.

I have at present about 20 acres of Alsike clover in full bloom. It grows with red clover, in the proportion of about $\frac{1}{2}$ Alsike and $\frac{1}{2}$ red. It promises well for hay, as it grows finely, and just as tall as the red. It grows many sprouts from one root, and looks as if the hay would be superior to the red. The bees take well to it. I sowed Alsike in with all my 40 acres of seedling this spring, that is growing finely.

Welton, Iowa, June 13, 1889.

THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION will hold its next meeting on Aug. 20, 1889, at R. Marsh's, in Guilford Township, 4 miles northeast of Rockford, Ills.

D. A. FULLER, Sec.

THE INTERNATIONAL BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION will meet in the court-house, at Brantford, Ont., Canada, on December 4, 5, and 6, 1889. All bee-keepers are invited to attend, and State and District bee-keepers' societies are requested to appoint delegates to the convention. Full particulars of the meeting will be given in due time. Anyone desirous of becoming a member, and receiving the last Annual Report bound, may do so by forwarding \$1.00 to the Secretary. —R. F. HOLTERMANN, Sec. Brantford, Ont., Canada.

CONVENTION DIRECTORY.

1889. *Time and Place of Meeting.*
 Aug. 20.—Northern Illinois, at Guilford, Ills.
 D. A. Fuller, Sec., Cherry Valley, Ills.
 Aug. 31.—Haldimand, at Fisherville, Ont.
 E. C. Campbell, Sec., Cayuga, Ont.
 Sept. ——Maine, at Livermore Falls, Me.
 J. F. Fuller, Sec., Oxford, Me.
 Sept. 5.—Erie County, at Buffalo, N. Y.
 O. L. Hershiser, Cor. Sec., Big Tree Corner, N. Y.
 Dec. 4, 6.—International, at Brantford, Ont., Canada.
 H. F. Holtermann, Sec., Brantford, Ont.

[In order to have this table complete, Secretaries are requested to forward full particulars of time and place of future meetings.—ED.]


**SELECTIONS FROM
OUR LETTER-BOX**

Busy Gathering Honey.—R. L. Tucker, Lexington, Mo., on June 24, 1889, writes:

We are in the midst of a busy honey season at last. Swarming is about over, and clover is still in bloom, with linden also, and when the weather is warm and nice, the bees store rapidly. I have taken 1,700 pounds of extracted honey—all clover—from 30 colonies. I am running 90 old colonies, with their increase, for comb honey, and expect quite a nice crop, as they already have over 3,000 sections about ready to take off. I will give a complete report a little later on.

Bees are Booming.—O. B. Barrows, Marshalltown, Iowa, on June 21, 1889, says:

To-day it is cool, and yesterday it rained all day, but before that the bees were booming—swarming and gathering white clover honey. Many colonies have the second tier of sections on, with basswood, buckwheat, goldenrod, Spanish-needle, and all the "back counties" to hear from. Who says the prospect is not good for a honey crop this year?

Good Weather Needed.—Vet Tucker, Shelby, O., on June 24, 1889, writes:

I packed 55 colonies on the summer stands last fall, and they were all in fair condition this spring, except that three were queenless. They built up rapidly until about May 10, when a cold, wet spell set in, which has continued to the present. To-day it is cold, with a north wind, so that the bees can work only a few hours in the middle of the day. During this cold, wet weather, they consumed all their stores, and had to be fed, and as I ex-

pected that each succeeding day would bring fair weather, when they could gather stores, I fed only sufficient to carry them a day or two, and of course brood-rearing nearly ceased. In this locality there was an abundant raspberry bloom, and now acres and acres are covered with Alsike and white clover blossoms, furnishing plenty of honey, if the weather were suitable. I have had no swarms yet, and do not expect any soon, though the hives are full of brood. The basswood promises a very heavy bloom, and I hope that I may yet get some honey. My bees are a sample of the bees in this section. They generally wintered well, did well during April and the first of May; many starved in May and the first part of June, but they are getting some stores now. Very few swarms issued, and bee-keepers are generally discouraged.

Bees Doing Well.—S. Burton, Eureka, Ills., on June 24, 1889, says:

Bees are doing well both in swarming and storing honey. I shall have to begin taking off honey next week, I think, if they continue to do as well. I think that they will do better now, as white clover is in abundance here. I have had 22 swarms, and lost one that absconded; it was a second swarm, and a small one at that.

New Honey.—Mr. S. D. Haskin, Waterville, Minn., on June 24, says:

I have just taken off several cases of sections of honey pretty well filled and capped. I have often remarked that Minnesota was not blessed with honey-dew, but this year, so far, it is not snow-flake or golden-rod honey. Bees are swarming cautiously. It is oh, so dry; and yet my bees have done well.

Peculiar Season for Bees.—Geo. Gale, Adams, Nebr., on June 22, 1889, says:

The season, so far as it relates to bee-keeping, has been a very peculiar one here, yet in the main it has been favorable to increase, but bees have stored no surplus, as yet. Crops of all kinds are looking as well as ever I have seen them. Late frosts have not damaged anything except some of the small fruits, and that only to a slight extent. Bloom has been pretty plentiful most of the time, but we have had a good deal of cool and windy weather, so that the bees could not work. I look for a good season yet. The hives are overflowing with bees, but I have had only one swarm from 15 colonies, so far.

Disposing of the Honey-Dew.

—P. M. Richardson, Magnolia, Iowa, on June 22, 1889, writes:

Bees came out in good condition in the spring. At present the outlook for a good surplus yield is favorable. Last year, when basswood blossomed, my hives did not average one pound of honey in the brood-chamber; now the hives are full, with some honey-dew in the sections. When honey comes in more freely, to prevent the bees from gathering honey-dew, I will take it off. One of my neighbors has a lot of it sealed in sections—what shall we do with the stuff? Will it do to keep it and feed it to the bees next spring? In 1888 I took off more than 100 pounds of comb honey per colony, spring count. I hope to do as well this year.

[Yes; it can be used for spring feeding, when the bees can fly occasionally.—ED.]

Reversing and Uncapping.

Mrs. Ada Dorsey, Holliday, Mo., on June 25, 1889, says:

My bees are doing real well, but I have lost several young queens. Please tell me how old a queen has to be to lay worker eggs. Whoever that was that advised reversing a hive and uncapping the honey, ought to have a shaking; for I have just tried it, and lost lots of honey and several colonies. No more uncapping for me! I have had one prime swarm that weighed 12 pounds. How is that for size?

[Queens usually begin to lay when 8 or 10 days old.—ED.]

The Season in Nebraska—The Union.—James Jardine, Ashland, Nebr., on June 24, 1889, writes:

I put 81 colonies into the cellar on Nov. 20, 1888, and took them out on March 25, 1889. I had 80 colonies in good condition. I kept the cellar temperature as near 42° to 45° as I could. I tried some 20 colonies with a piece of gunny-sack over the brood-frames, and they did finely. I will prepare the most of them that way next winter. I never had so many queens die as early this spring; so I had to give them brood to rear queens. I had lots of drones in some strong colonies to mate with, so I did very well. I never have seen so much honey-dew in May and June as there has been this year. It kept the bees with plenty of food for the young brood. They have been swarming since the middle of May. I am looking for lots of swarms in July, this year. The bees are working on

the sweet clover, mustard, and the sumac at present, and the basswood will be ready about July 1. It looks fine this year, and it appears at present that I will get more honey than I have had in two years. We have had fine rains lately, and everything looks nice. I have two of the Heddon hives to try this summer.

I was happy to see that Mr. Rich, of New York, came out all right in his bee-lawsuit, and his neighbor got the sum of six cents! It seems so strange, to me, that we cannot have more bee-keepers to join the Union. No man can tell when he will get into trouble with such fellows that know no better. I have been told a number of times, that if I was inside the city limits, they would make me move my bees out, as the bees troubled the grocery stores so much; but this year they have not been troubled with the bees, and now they feel slighted. I tell them that I have been getting an honest race of bees, that do not believe in stealing.

Too Cold and Too Wet.—John R. Sample, Elizaville, Ills., writes:

Bees in this neighborhood are not doing any good. In the spring it was too dry and cold for them to get honey enough to breed on; then it commenced raining on May 25, and has rained nearly every day since.

Unfavorable Weather, etc.—John Dewar, Tiverton, Ont., on June 15, 1889, says:

Bees generally came out in good condition this spring. The latter part of April, and up to about May 20, was very favorable for the bees, with no spring dwindling, at least with my bees; but since May 20, the weather has been very cold and wet, so that the bees could not leave their hives. It is now warmer, but still wet. If we should get favorable weather after this, we expect a good yield, as the colonies are very strong.

Selecting a Future Home.—W. C. Steddom, Oregonia, O., on June 24, 1889, writes:

As there has been a great deal written about bees selecting a future home, I wish to add the result of my observations. Some three weeks since, I was expecting a swarm; in my apiary, consisting of about 50 colonies, was an empty hive, and on the opposite side from the hive containing the colony which I thought about ready to cast a swarm. Bees had been at work cleaning up and guarding the empty hive for several days—I think that some of

them stayed during the night; by watching them after sundown, when other bees had ceased to fly, I could easily follow them as they would go home, and they went directly to where I expected the swarm. In a few days, out came the swarm, and streamed across the apiary to the empty hive, and were pouring into it before more than one-half were out of the parent hive. What more do we want, to prove that bees do select the future home?

Queens Too Old to Lay, etc.

Wm. Anderson, Sherman, Mo., on June 17, 1889, writes:

I have not seen a better season for honey than this, though it is very backward and late. The rains and cool weather has put the bees back in this part of the country. I have been very much discouraged on account of so much failure in honey and bees, but I see before me a bountiful harvest of honey, though having lost very nearly all my bees with foul brood and starvation. 1. What is the cause of a queen's stopping laying for the space of three weeks? 2. How old is a queen when she is too old to lay, if she is ever too old to lay?

[1. In cases of scarcity of food, queens sometimes stop laying, or the bees will not allow the eggs to hatch until favorable conditions exist.

2. A queen should lay for three years or more, all other things being favorable; but sometimes she becomes sterile from other causes than age.—ED.]

Bees Eating Brood, etc.—Rev. Stephen Roese, Maiden Rock, Wis., on June 10, 1889, writes:

Up to yesterday, bees in this section of the country were almost in a starving condition, owing to the heavy frosts and cold weather; but since the rain, a few days ago, white clover blossoms have opened, and the bees find something to do. On a careful examination, I found, in spite of my feeding, that all colonies were much lighter than in the early spring, and some were even in a starving condition. One colony I found dead, having had a vigorous young queen, and breeding rather ahead of her stores; six frames were full of sealed and unsealed brood; the latter, it seemed that the dying colony, after all the honey was gone, subsisted upon, judging from the unsealed brood mostly consumed. Has anything like this been known before? Upon further examination, I found that many colo-

nies had made preparations for early swarming, but in consequence of the cold weather and destructive frosts, they had torn the queen-cells down, and were killing their drones.

P. S.—At this date (June 16) the weather is quite warm, and bees are very busy gathering nectar from white clover and raspberry. The good-nature and cheerful hum of the honey-gatherers, is an indication that the hard-times and honey-dearth are over for the present, and the apiarist is looking forward with a good hope that he will be well rewarded for his labor and toil. Many hundred acres of buckwheat are sowed in this immediate neighborhood, and about one-fourth of it is the Japanese variety. I am putting on sections, but I have had no swarms as yet; and do not look for any for eight or ten days yet, as I have built up the weaker colonies by taking brood from the stronger ones.

Starting Again with Bees.—H. G. Heckman, Clark, Dak., on June 19, 1889, says:

I am again trying to begin the bee and honey business, as I have purchased several colonies, and I believe that I can make it a success here in Dakota, but I am more than five years behind the times. I have 2 colonies of pure Italian bees—perhaps the only ones in this (Clark) county. I am living on the edge of a thriving village, engaged in farming, and I am well satisfied with this country. I have seeded two acres to buckwheat, and we have wild mustard and golden-rod, and some other honey-plants.

Chloroform and Swarming.—L. B. Graves, Nineveh, Ind., on June 22, 1889, writes:

On page 823, of the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL for 1888, Mr. W. H. Kirby, speaks about chloroform for the prevention of swarming. I would like to know just how he uses it, and just how much. I tried it on two colonies, but it had no effect. I used a cold-blast smoker, and put a small piece of cotton in the muzzle, poured chloroform in on it, and puffed it in at the hive entrance, but I could not even stupefy the guards. If there is a better way to use it, I would be glad to know it. The season has been very backward here—very cold and rainy, until the last few days it has been very warm, and now the bees do nothing but swarm. I gave them more room both in the brood and the surplus departments, but they would not occupy it—only hang around the entrance for a day or two, and then swarm.

White Clover and Basswood.

J. W. Collins, Clarksville, Mo., on June 4, 1889, writes :

I began the season with 40 colonies, and have increased them to 68. I have sold a few pounds of white clover honey at 13 cents per pound. I think that the price is low and so I will hold my honey for better prices. The outlook here is fine. White clover has been in full bloom for two or three weeks, and the highways, byways and hedges are just white with clover, also the pastures and fields. Basswood will be in bloom in about ten days, and with the abundance of it together with clover, we bee-keepers are, or ought to be, happy.

Very Good Honey-Yield.—D. R. Fox, M. D., Jesuit's Bend, La., on June 18, 1889, writes :

The honey-yield of this portion of the parish has been very good this year, owing to the low stage of the Mississippi river. There has been scarcely any rice planted, consequently the white clover and wild flowers have been quite abundant. I extracted from about 90 colonies of bees, 275 gallons of orange-flower and white clover honey, during the month of April; and my hives are full again, mostly of white clover honey. I will get 280 or 300 gallons of honey during this month.

Large Crop Expected.—The "Moriah Center Mill-Company," of Moriah Center, N.Y., on June 20, write:

It has been very wet for the last week, but the bees are doing well now—they are swarming and storing honey in the sections. There are not a great many bees in this vicinity. Three-fourths of all the bees in this locality were lost one year ago this spring. The prospects are good for a large honey crop, if the weather is favorable.

Ripening Honey by Solar Heat.—Fayette Lee, Cokato, Minn., on June 20, 1889, writes :

Last summer I extracted some very thin honey, and put it into glass jars, which I then put in the sunshine; in three days the honey was thick and very nice, and the flavor was good. The jars must be so that the air can get in. The heat of the sun was from 95° to 110°. I believe that every bee-keeper could make a tank about 4 inches deep, as large as desired, and cover it with glass, to ripen the honey that way, and keep the bees strong. Try it and see.



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Pure Phenol for Foul Brood.—Calvert's No. 1 phenol, mentioned in Cheshire's pamphlet on pages 16 and 17, can be procured at this office at 25 cents per ounce. Not being mailable, it must go by express.

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Honey and Beeswax Market.

CHICAGO.

HONEY.—The old crop is about exhausted, and not any new has been offered, especially in the fore-going applicable to the state of the comb honey market. Extracted, very little demand, at 7@8c.
BEESWAX.—25c. R. A. BURKE & CO.
June 10. 161 South Water St.

DETROIT.

HONEY.—No attractive honey in the market, and sales are slow at 12@15c.
BEESWAX.—24c@25c.
June 22. M. H. HUNT, Bell Branch, Mich.

KANSAS CITY.

HONEY.—Very nice new comb in 1-lb. sections is selling at 15c. Very little old honey of any kind is on the market, and no new extracted.
BEESWAX.—None in the market.
June 20. CLEMENS, CLOON & CO., cor 4th & Walnut.

ST. LOUIS.

HONEY.—Extracted in barrels, 6½@8c. Excellent demand for clear, bright in barrels. Dark, 5c@6c.
BEESWAX.—Scarce at 23c, for prime.
May 22. D. G. TUTT & CO., Commercial St.

NEW YORK.

HONEY.—Extracted in good demand. We quote : Fine orange-bloom at from 7@7½c.; off grades of Southern, 9@10c. per gallon.
BEESWAX.—Scarce, at 26@27½c. for good.

HILDRETH BROS. & SIEGELKEN,
June 6. 28 & 30 W. Broadway, near Duane St.

BOSTON.

HONEY.—We quote : 1-pounds selling from 10@12c.; 2-lbs., 15@16c. Extracted, 8@9c. Sales very slow.
BEESWAX.—None on hand.
June 22. BLAKE & RIPLEY, 57 Chatham Street.

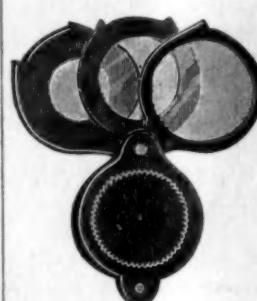
CINCINNATI.

HONEY.—We quote extracted at 5@6c. per lb. Demand slow for table use, and fair from manufacturers. Several lots of new comb have arrived, but quality being off, it finds slow sale at 12@14c.
BEESWAX.—Demand is good—20@22c. per lb. for good to choice yellow, on arrival.
June 22 C. F. MUTH & SON, Freeman & Central Av.

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